



*[Faint, illegible handwritten text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]*



Newburyport Oct 26<sup>th</sup> 1857.

144

Friend Garrison

Will you give me the information of a number of young Men in this town, and answer the following question viz. Why is it wrong for me to vote for Government officers, and why do I commit sin in so doing.

Is it as sinful for me to vote for Charles Sumner for President as it would be to vote for Daniel Webster.

Why is it any more inconsistent to vote under this Government than it is to pay Taxes. Is it not better to speak by our votes than it is to keep silence. You will oblige a number here who are really honest seekers after truth, and requested me to ask you the above. Why cannot we have an Anti Slavery Meeting in this town. If Mr Phillips, J. May Jr, Dan Foster, or Foster or any other good man will come here, give me notice and I will make the arrangements, and give the notice -

Yours Truly

I cannot vote for a Man to swear to do what I cannot do myself.

Wm Sumner